

state. It is only half efficient when its membership includes but half the doctors of the state. Now is the time for every and each county society to make an organized campaign to increase its membership to include the medical profession of its territory. This is a patriotic duty for each society and a patriotic obligation on it. A measure of the energy and life of the county society is found in the ratio of its members to the entire profession of its territory. The State Society is not a political machine, nor a plaything of a clique, it is the organized medical profession of the state and it can accomplish great things for the profession, and through them for the civil body, and beyond that for the country, if only this clear-cut obligation is felt, on the one hand by each county society, and on the other, by each physician in the state.

Each county society should initiate an aggressive and carefully planned campaign, as a patriotic duty, to increase its membership to the available limit.

MORE MEDICAL OFFICERS.

At the last meeting of the Council of National Defense, Medical Section, a complete list of the physicians in California who have entered the Medical Officers' Reserve Corps was presented. Their number totals to date 665 men. The entire number required from the State is 800. It is therefore apparent that there are approximately 135 men yet to volunteer for military service.

This committee has made up a list of all the physicians in California of military age and has classified them according to their age, number of dependents, teaching position, public service and physical fitness. These names have been gathered into groups according to counties and the lists will be sent to the County Committees for National Defense. A concerted effort will be made to fill the required number of enrollments.

Men throughout the State who have not known whether it was their duty or not to enroll in the M. O. R. C. will have plainly put before them the necessity of such service. The final judgment, however, will have to be left to their individual consciences and their more intimate knowledge of their personal affairs.

It is quite natural to expect that the unmarried men, or men of small families whose circumstances permit the sacrifice, should be expected first to join the colors, rather than men of greater responsibilities. It is not only their duty, but it is a privilege, and doubtless will result in a personal advantage to them. They will be serving their country and entering into the biggest event in history, and at the same time gaining a fund of professional experience which will be of service throughout their lives.

Therefore, if you are called upon by your local committee, remember that the need is still great, your country calls you. It is up to you to make the decision.

ORAL EXAMINATIONS FOR MEDICAL LICENSES.

The first examination under the new Medical Practice Act which, as has been described previously, allows osteopaths to be licensed on oral examinations, provided they have made certain preliminary requirements, was held in Los Angeles early in October. This examination left much to be desired in the way of thoroughness and of providing a genuine test of proficiency in the candidates. The list of questions asked is fairly comprehensive. The fact of its being the first oral examination given under the new law probably accounts for its not being more stringent. It was doubtless difficult to make it as thorough and practical as the Board would have wished.

That this is true is indicated by the improved character of the second examination held in Los Angeles and the third held in Oakland. If the Board of Medical Examiners improves the character of these oral examinations, as their policy so far indicates that they will do, there can certainly be no just criticism of inadequate examination. In another column is given a résumé of the results of these examinations.

As has been said editorially in former issues, the medical profession of the State is vitally interested in the character of these oral examinations. Those osteopaths who prove their efficiency and who are licensed as physicians and surgeons may become eligible for membership in the State Medical Society through membership in the local county societies. To do this, it is only necessary for them to practice as regular physicians and not as osteopaths or adherents of any special medical or pseudo-medical sect.

It therefore behooves the medical profession of the State of California particularly to see to it that the character of these oral examinations is fully satisfactory in order that those osteopaths who qualify for membership in the State Medical Society may be received with good grace and with the cordiality which is their due. If osteopaths who pass the State Board of Medical Examiners are known to have passed on their actual merits, there will be no valid criticism on this ground of their being received later into the County Society. It is very much to be hoped that every candidate who passes the State Board of Medical Examiners will make himself eligible for membership in his local County Society.

INDEMNITY DEFENSE FUND.

The attention of Contributing Members is expressly directed to the due dates of their notes for the balance of the assessment. These notes are maturing now in large numbers, and all notes will become due on or before December 31, 1917. Although each Contributing Member will receive a notice from the Secretary, do not wait for such notice, but mail your check at once. If the payment is not made, your coverage lapses. Do not overlook or forget to take up your note on or before its maturity.

The initial assessment for the organization of

the Indemnity Defense Fund was fixed at \$30.00, one-half to be paid in cash upon subscription, and the balance by note due one year thereafter. In fairness to those who joined the Fund promptly, it was necessary to fix a limit upon this method of payment, and therefore DECEMBER 31, 1917, was settled upon as the LAST MATURITY DATE FOR NOTES.

Commencing January 1, 1918, the Council has decided that the full initial assessment of \$30.00 be paid in cash.

Members should have in mind that the Council does not contemplate an annual assessment of \$30.00, or any other sum, to maintain the Indemnity Defense Fund. The experience with medical defense for the last eight years warrants the assertion that an annual assessment of \$30.00 will not be required. In all probability a second assessment will not need to be levied for a year or more and it may be that the Fund can be maintained for as low as \$10.00 per annum.

Members should also understand that this is not insurance, but an indemnifying association which possesses all of the good features of insurance with the added advantage that it can be carried on a much more economical basis than any insurance proposition.

We can assure members that they not only have better protection by our own system of Defense and Indemnity, but that the interest and co-operation of organized medicine stands behind their cases.

This is about the time of year that the question arises whether to renew your policy in your old company or to go into the State Society. Our advice has been to *do both*. But, if you can only join one organization,—join that which combines superior protection with mutual interests.

We urge you to join the Fund.

THE PEOPLE'S COUNCIL.

There has been received for gratuitous publication in the JOURNAL a reading notice of certain lectures by one, Scott Nearing, under the auspices of "The People's Council." On its receipt the following letter was sent to the secretary of that organization:

"November 13, 1917.

"To the Secretary of the People's Council of America, Northern California Branch, 68 Post St., San Francisco.

"Dear Sir:

"I am in receipt of a reading notice concerning the lectures of Dr. Scott Nearing. I find myself in some doubt as to the exact status of the People's Council of America. May I ask for explicit statements on the following points:

"1. What is the object of your society?

"2. What is your attitude toward the present governmental administration under present war conditions?

"3. Is it within the purpose of your society to further in every possible way the prosecution of the war against Germany?

"Very truly yours,

"ALFRED C. REED, Editor."

The following reply was received:

"San Francisco, Cal., Nov. 14, 1917.

"Mr. Alfred C. Reeds,

"135 Stockton Street,

"San Francisco, Calif.

"Dear Mr. Reeds:

"Your letter inquiring about the purposes of the People's Council was received this morning. Although one person cannot presume to speak for the People's Council, I can answer your first question by the enclosed announcement. Personally, my attitude towards the present administration is the same as that of all thoughtful persons, namely: support is given the administration when it carries out the will of the people, and the administration is opposed when it does not. Your third question is also answered on the circular.

"If any further information is desired, it will give us great pleasure to furnish the same.

"Very truly yours,

"WM. SHORT, Chairman."

The "enclosed announcement" noted, was entitled "The Truth About the People's Council." As will be noted, the reply given above does not answer the second question asked, nor did the enclosed circular answer the third question asked, the writer to the contrary notwithstanding. The first question is answered in the circular in very inexact and general terms, and no details are given which would enable the reader to form a judgment as to the answer to be expected to the second and third questions propounded in the letter of the editor.

The circular states certain truisms to which we naturally agree, as, for instance, "that militarism . . . must become a thing of the past." It also states that "there must be a speedy and democratic peace." It is useless to analyze the matter further. Peace is desired by all concerned, but God forbid that it come before the destruction of German militarism.

The People's Council, having implied some sympathy with its aims on the part of the JOURNAL by submitting a reading notice, hereby receives its answer. We have the most complete abhorrence for the entire institution and emphatically condemn it because of our conviction that it is subversive of the ends for which our fellows are in the trenches in France. We cannot be loyal to American democracy or the traditions of American medicine, and countenance this thing. Its ugly head savors of sedition and treason. We will have none of it. We feel that to offer its propaganda for publication to the medical profession is an open and direct insult to the medical profession, which has given and is giving and will continue to give its best effort, and skill, and loyal support and life itself, in support of the principles for which this nation is at war. California physicians to the number of nearly seven hundred, have enrolled in their country's service. It is their honor and our honor. Let us have none of this so-called People's Council. There is abundant work for all in patriotic lines. Let us do it.